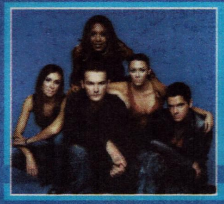
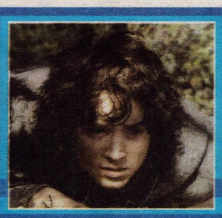
No 690 December 1, 2002

THE FUNDAY TIMES

Talk to trees
Meet the Muppet tree that's hoping to bring festive cheer for a charity
Page 3



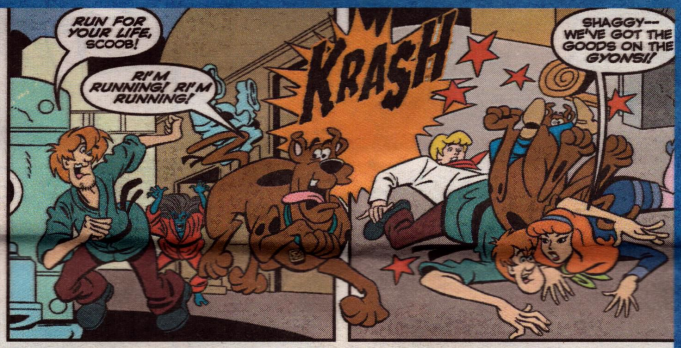
X-tra special
Popsters Liberty X are Holding On For You as they face Funday's questions
Page 5



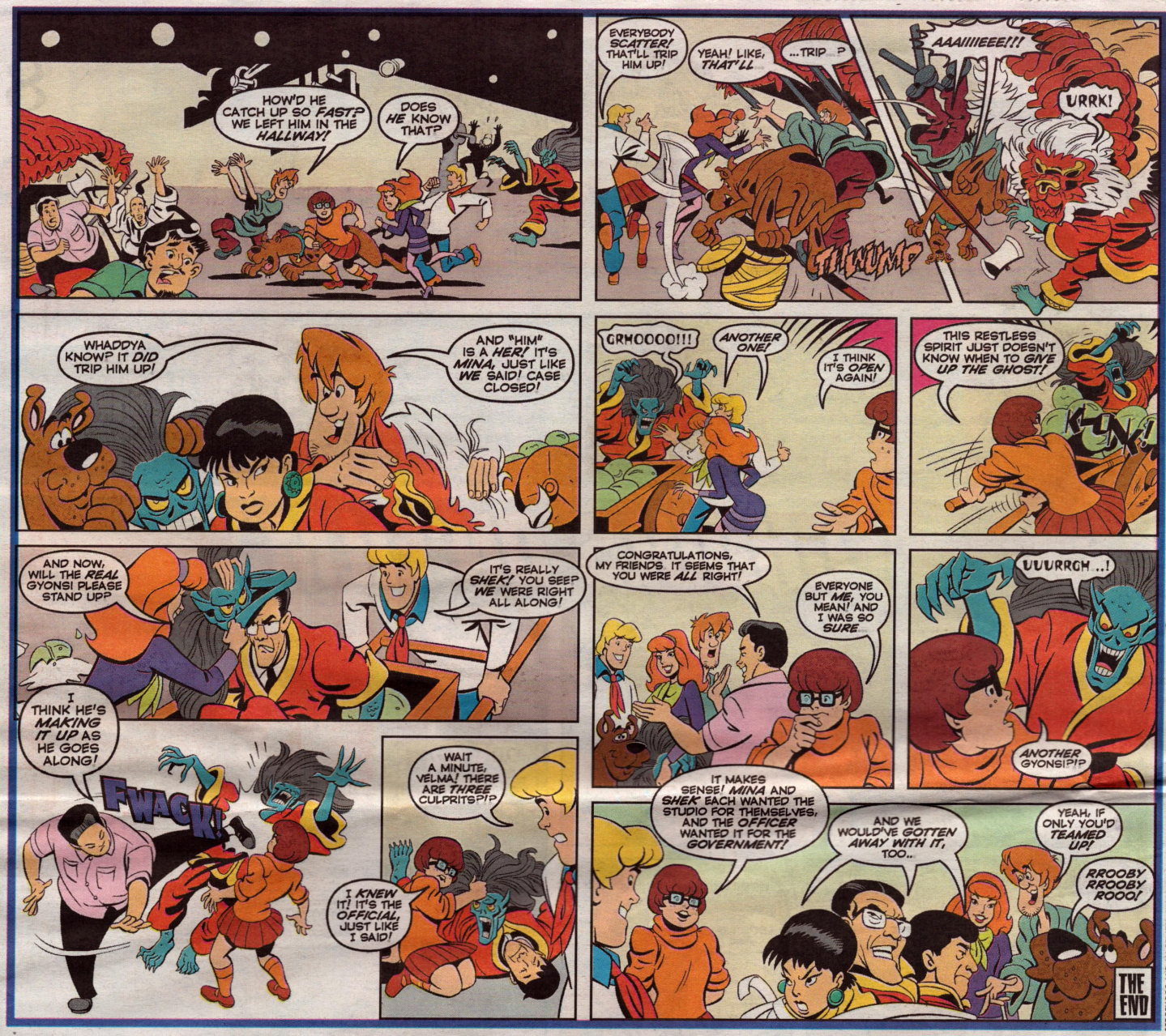
The ring leader
Prepare for battle as Funday previews the return of Frodo in The Two Towers
Page 6

SCOOBY-DOO! in GHOULS ON FILM

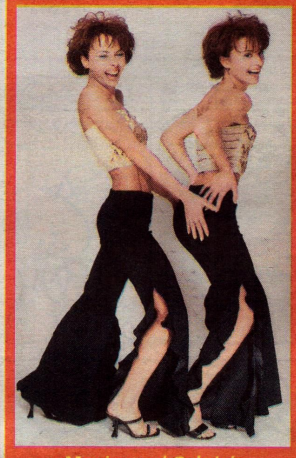
The story so far – Scooby and Shaggy are about to get a real fright as the gruesome gyonsi sneaks up on the cowardly duo



More inside



SCOOBY-DOO AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © HANNA-BARBERA (S02)


Monica and Gabriela

CHEEKY CHEEKY!

Jane Macarther finds out if The Cheeky Girls are as crazy as they appeared on Popstars: The Rivals

On Popstars, you seemed a bit bonkers. Are you?

Monica: We are different, I'll admit that! We grew up training to be entertainers. For 14 years, we didn't go to parties, we didn't socialise, we didn't have any boyfriends – we just practised and practised.

Gabriela: One of the things that makes us different is that we're so open. No secrets. What you see is what you get.

How did you get your name, The Cheeky Girls?

Monica: Our step-father gave it to us when he spotted us sneaking up to the freezer at home and stealing ice-cream. When we went for our Popstars audition, they asked us for a name, so our mother suggested that!

Tell us a bit about your single

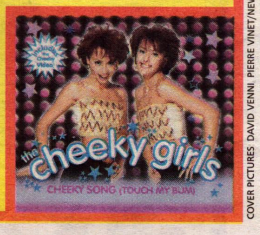
Monica: Our mother wrote it! Filming the video was brilliant. It took 15 hours, though, so it was hard work. But not stressful – we just feel so lucky to be doing this. I was watching the dancers rehearse, and I started to cry! I just couldn't believe it was all happening for us!

What's the cheekiest thing you've ever done?

Monica: We're good girls! We're very polite and we'll never get big-headed.

Gabriela: We were a bit naughty when we were little, though. We used to fool the teachers by pretending to be each other in order to get good marks. Best of all, we never got caught!

The Cheeky Girls' debut single, Cheeky Song, is out tomorrow



COVER PICTURES: DAVID VENNI, PIERRE VINET/NEW LINE PRODUCTIONS ©2002/NEW LINE CINEMA

Scooby-Doo cracks another case next week!

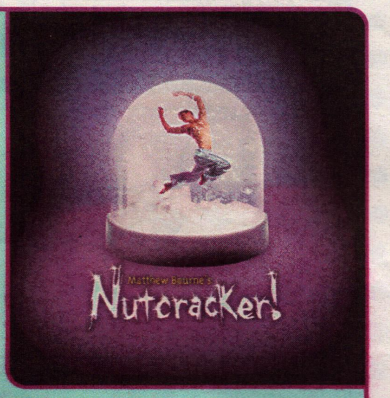
FUNDAY

NEWS

Chari-tree!

This year's must-have Christmas tree is the rare species Arboreus Picies Muppetus. At almost two metres tall, and more commonly known as Bruce McSpruce, it's believed to be the only one in existence, and it can talk! Bruce is part of Save The Children's Festival of Trees, an annual event to raise money to help the world's poorest children. Celebrities are invited to design trees and, this year, The Jim Henson Company decided to create a Muppet tree, decorated with portraits of Kermit, Fozzie and their puppet pals. The festive firs will be auctioned on December 3, but you can see them before then, at Coutts and Co, 240 The Strand, London, or by logging onto www.savethechildren.org.uk/festivaloftrees

Cracking show



Christmas Eve is usually a time for wrapping presents and hanging up your stocking. Not for Clara Stahlbaum – she spends it being captured by the Mouse King, meeting some dancing snowflakes and taking a trip to the Land of Sweets! For more than 100 years, audiences have been thrilled by Clara's adventures in The Nutcracker. Now, a new production at London's Sadler's Wells theatre, directed by famous choreographer Matthew Bourne, is wowing ballet fans. But don't expect a traditional show – this version begins at Dr Dross' Dickensian Orphanage instead of Clara's house and features the biggest cake you'll ever see. Visit www.sadlerswells.com to find out more.

Singh when you're winning

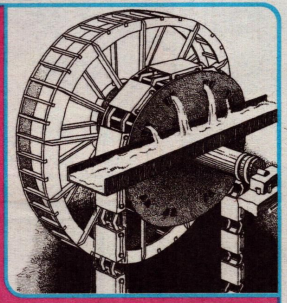
If a player for the Sikh Hunter New Boys is told to pass the ball to Singh, he's got a big problem. That's because every member of the amateur football team in Birmingham has the same surname – and so does the manager, Nick Singh. "We have to operate on a nickname basis, otherwise half-time talks would be very difficult," Nick explains. This doesn't mean that all new signings have to share the surname too. "We have just signed a lad called Gary Walner," reveals Nick. "But all the other players call him Gary Singh!"

Walk-on role

The Snowman – the classic tale of a little boy whose frosty friend comes to life – is out now on a special 20th anniversary DVD and video. For the first time, the film credits feature Peter Auty [below], the choirboy who sang the famous theme tune, Walking In The Air. Another singer, Aled Jones, had a number five hit with the same song and many people mistakenly believe it's his voice on the animation. But Peter, who is now an opera singer, isn't bothered that Aled took the limelight. "I don't think I was annoyed," recalls Peter. "At the time the song was popular, I'd just moved to a new school. It was probably best to keep a low profile instead of being known for singing in a high voice!" Peter's original version of Walking In The Air wasn't used for the film. But it wasn't his fault ...

"I went into a recording studio to sing the song. Then I was asked back later to make another recording because they'd lost the first one!"

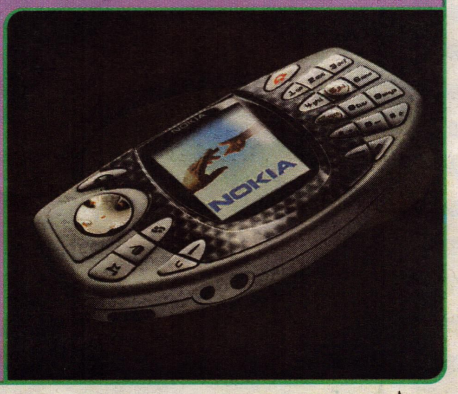
Round trip



It wasn't easy being a slave in Roman times, especially if you were forced to spend all day walking on a treadmill, raising water from a well. In September last year, the remains of two 2,000-year-old water-lifting machines were discovered underneath a London street. Believed to be the only surviving examples in the world, each one could raise an astonishing 72,000 litres every day. From December 5, visitors to the Museum of London can discover exactly what working in one was like. One of the machines will be reconstructed and you will be able to test your strength on the treadmill. But be warned – a real Roman slave would be expected to walk for 43km every day.

N-Gage rage

This new handheld console is set to challenge the Game Boy. The N-Gage, created by Nokia, should be in the shops in February 2003. Games will come on memory cards and any mobile phone users who think directing a black line around a screen is a real challenge will be blown away by the N-Gage. Sega will produce some of the titles – and, using the phone network, will add online and multiplayer facilities, too. This means you'll be able to play other gamers around the world!



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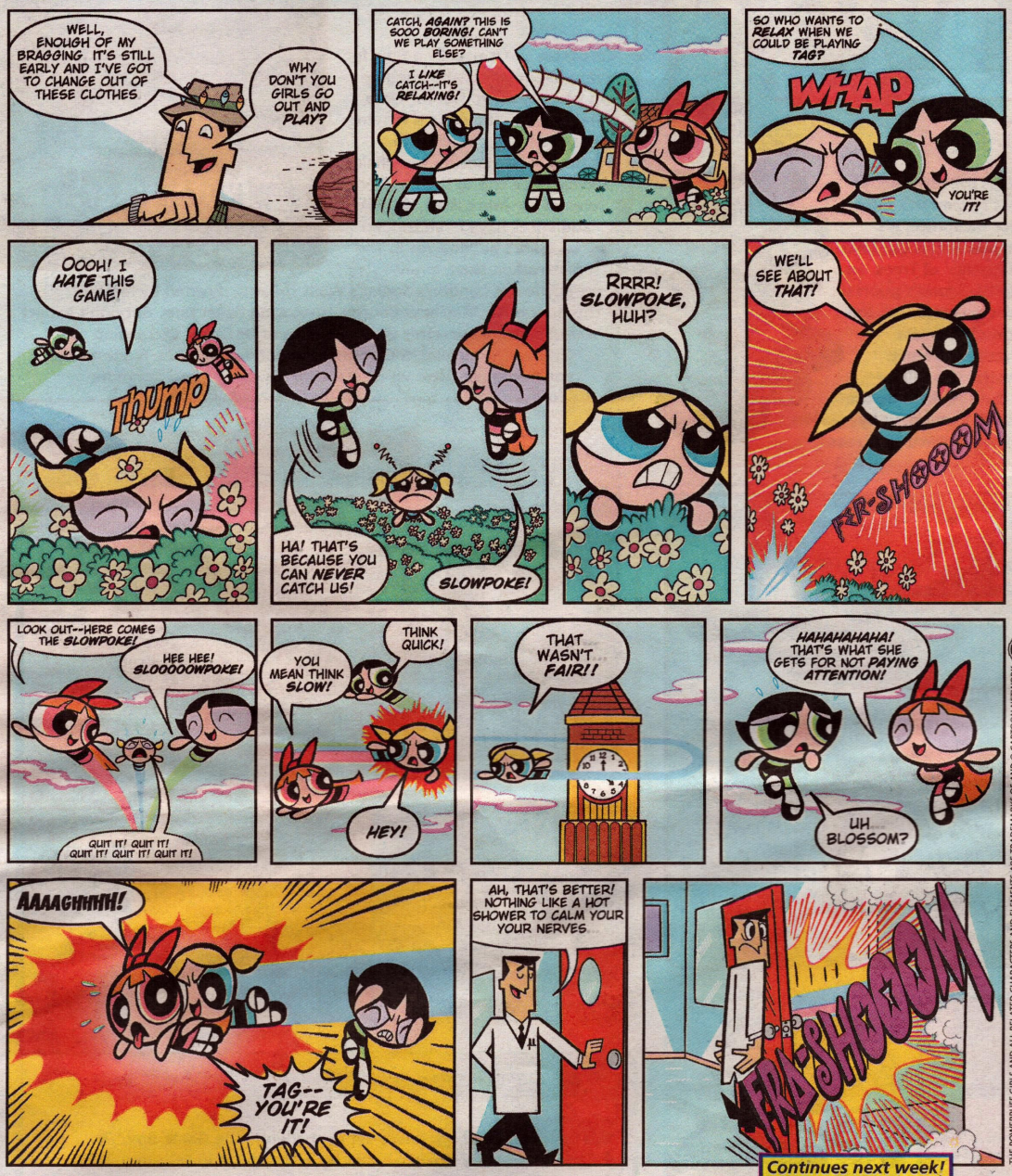
THE POWERPUFF GIRLS — BIG FISH STORY

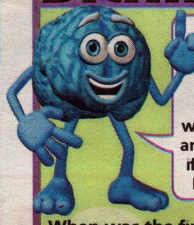
The story so far – Professor Utonium has been fishing – but there's something strange about his little catch!



Continues next week!

THE POWERPUFF GIRLS AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © CARTOON NETWORK (S02)

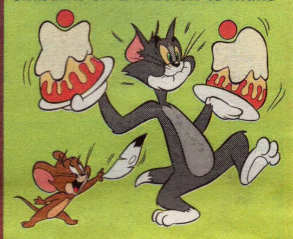
BRAINBOX



I'm Brainbox – the Funday boffin! Send in a puzzling question you want to know the answer to and see if my friends and I can answer it

When was the first Tom and Jerry cartoon made?
James Barker, 8, Weston-Super-Mare

The feisty cat-and-mouse pair have appeared in more than 200 cartoons and the animated duo's original outing was more than 60 years ago in February 1940. In the first episode, entitled Puss Gets The Boot, Tom is actually called Jasper and is warned by his owner, Mammy Two-Shoes, that if he breaks one more thing, she will be forced to throw him out. Jerry overhears this and embarks on a mission to make



sure that Tom does indeed get the boot. Their chases soon became legendary and Tom and Jerry grabbed the world's imagination. The show's famous creators, Joseph Barbera and William Hanna, went on to create other cartoon favourites such as The Flintstones and Funday's own Scooby-Doo.

Brainbox would like to thank the unofficial fan website www.tomandjerryonline.com

If you have a question for Brainbox, write to: Brainbox, The Funday Times, PO Box 495, London E98 1ST or e-mail brainbox@sunday-times.co.uk

TOM AND JERRY AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO ©2002

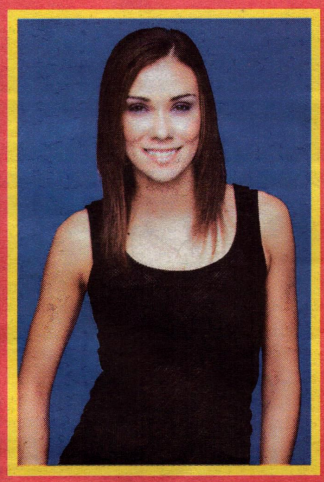
Jarvis

©KNIGHT FEATURES

There are only a few weeks left for Brainbox – make sure you ask him a question while you've got the chance!

HOLDING ON!

Now that they've hit the top spot, Liberty X are determined to stay there. With a fabulous new single out tomorrow, the band tell Dave Coombs about the track, making the video and their biggest mistakes



Hi guys, tell us about the new single.

Jessica: It's one of my favourite songs on the album. I think it's a really beautiful song and I really enjoy singing it. The words mean a lot to me as well because we are away from our loved ones quite a lot now and often it feels like we're a million miles away.

Michelle: We co-wrote it, which is wicked.

Kevin: It's cool because it's our first ballad, which makes it a bit different from our other songs. It was the first song we recorded as a band.

Kelli: It's our fifth release, and I get more nervous every time. With our first release it was only afterwards that I realised what we'd actually done. With the second single I was quite nervous and by Just A Little, I was completely bricking it. It's because there's more riding on it each time.

What about the video shoot?

Tony: There's not really a story to it. We didn't want to do a cheesy Christmas ballad video with snow and reindeer, but it was hard to figure out what kind of video to do. We wanted to pick a really stylish place and do something loosely based on the fact that we're all travelling on a certain journey and trying to meet up in this strange and dark city. There's nothing more to it than that. It's mainly about the photography and the style. It was a two-day shoot in Budapest, Hungary, which is a beautiful place with lovely architecture.

Jessica: Most of my scenes were filmed outside, in different locations around Budapest, and it was freezing. They mounted the camera in the back of a van and I would walk through the streets behind it. But there were no roads blocked off, I just had to watch out for the cars! It looks brilliant though, so it was worth being cold. The most embarrassing bits were when I had to sing at double speed, so that when they play the film back and slow the footage down I'm walking in slow motion but singing at the right speed. To do that they played the song at double speed out of the van so I was singing along like a chipmunk. Everyone around me on the street was going about their daily business so I felt like a total wally!

Kelli: It was slightly different to filming our last video in Jamaica, but it was cool. The buildings in Budapest are beautiful and even the tube stations are interesting places.

Kevin: It was different to previous videos because we were never together at any one time performing. I quite liked that though because we just got our bits done and that was it. I love going to different countries as well. I've got a big map on my wall and I put stickers on it to show where I've been. I'm hoping by the end of my career that I'll have been everywhere.

"Trust is all it takes, we all make mistakes" is one of the lyrics from the single – what's been your biggest mistake recently?

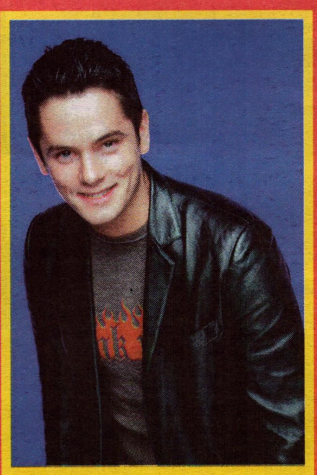
Jessica: I left my entire make-up bag at a hotel in Bournemouth this morning. I was half asleep when I got up at 5.30am and I just opened my bag to get ready for the photos today and realised I don't have any make-up.

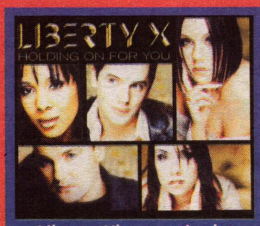
Kevin: Last Christmas, Tony and I posed in elf ears. Luckily, the pictures haven't been used but I won't be persuaded to do that again!

Michelle: I sometimes regret getting these hair extensions. It's wicked having long hair again but I don't have time to maintain it so it gets a bit messy.

Tony: This dark green leather jacket I'm wearing today didn't start off as dark green. It started off as luminous green. It was purchased by a stylist who said she'd paint it black. But she hadn't painted it and she told me it would look alright on TV. But after I wore it on CD:UK I got put in the "Minging" section of a magazine! So, my big mistake was not getting it painted straight away.

Kelli: I made a mistake doing the new dance routine this week when we were making a TV show. I just cover up my mistakes though and carry on. I only laugh when the others make mistakes. Tony's always making mistakes and that cracks me up!

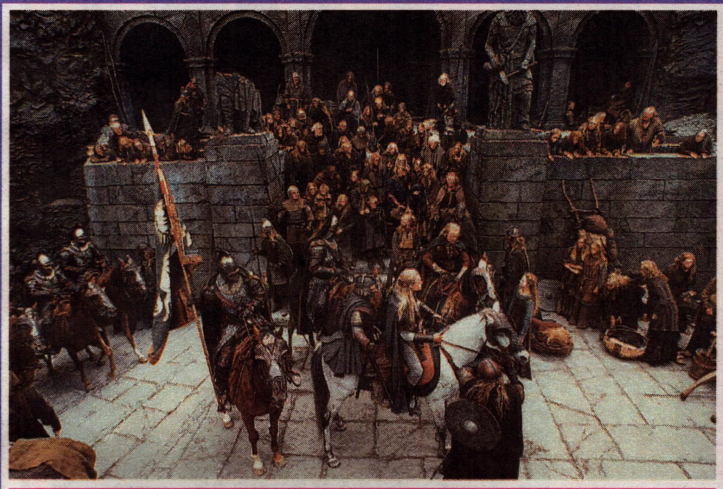




Liberty X's new single, Holding On For You, is released tomorrow on V2

PICTURES: DAVID VENNI

LORD OF THE RINGS : THE TWO TOWERS



THE STORY

The epic adventure, written by J R R Tolkien, is set in Middle-earth. Evil Lord Saruman plans to take over the land and enslave its weird and wonderful inhabitants. But first he must get his hands on a ring. A heroic young hobbit called Frodo has the ring, and it's up to him to save Middle-earth by destroying the ring at the Mount Of Doom.

Sam and Frodo

Gimli

MIDDLE-EARTH CREATURES

Hobbits

Frodo and his miniature mates Merry, Pippin and Sam are furry-footed, gentle beings with pointed ears who can live to around 100 years old.

Dwarves

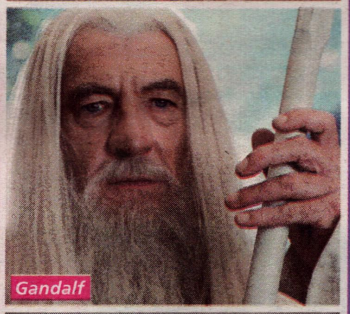
Gimli is a short but tough fella. The dwarves are a rough-and-ready, axe-wielding race who live to 250 and believe strongly in justice.

Wizards

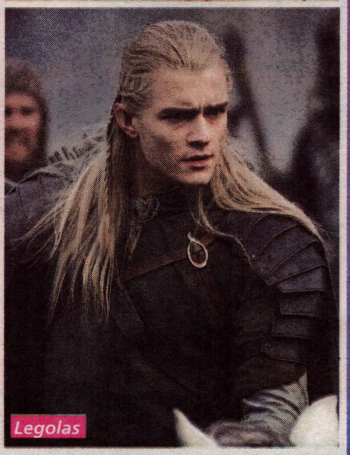
Supremely powerful, wizards can be good or evil. Lord Saruman, an evil wizard, is the villain of the film but good wizard Gandalf helps Frodo on his quest.

Elves

Elves, like the expert archer Legolas, are tall, noble beings who are immortal and immune to disease. These magical beauties can be slain or die of grief though.



Gandalf



Legolas

MAGICAL

Adam Tanswell takes a look at two gr

CREATING THE MOVIE

To create Middle-earth, an army of expert artists produced more than 900 suits of armour, 1,600 pairs of fake feet and ears as well as 200 orc heads [made from latex foam woven with yak hair]. The orcs' blood-curdling war cries were provided by a crowd of cricket fans! They were recorded during an international cricket match last January. Howzat!

STAR INTERVIEW

Meet actor Dominic Monaghan – aka Merry the hobbit

Was it fun filming the trilogy?
I had an amazing time! I had to move to New Zealand for a year-and-a-half, along with most of the main cast members. It was cool.

Is it true that you had to work through floods and landslides?
Yes, it was mad! Some of the sets were washed away by floods, others got covered with snow which meant we couldn't use them. We also had to fly through some really scary thunderstorms.

How did you train for your part as it's quite energetic?
I had a nine-week training course with the rest of the cast before we started filming. It involved kayaking, sword fighting, dialect coaching and going to the gym.

Did you get time to pull any pranks on the rest of the cast?
Yeah, Elijah Wood and me were involved in some hardcore practical jokes with Sean Bean. He sabotaged our trailers by spraying them with shaving foam so we put a dead fish in his car boot. He didn't notice for a month and it stank!

Pippin and Merry

The Lord Of Th
Towers open
December 18. T
trilogy, The Lo
The Return Of T
release in D

The Santa Clause

THE FUN

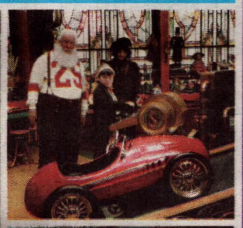
L MOVIES

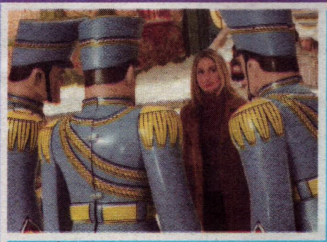
reat movies to look out for this month

CREATING THE MOVIE

"We had such a magical time making this movie," explains director, Michael Lembeck. "I wanted to put my audience in a wondrous, fantastical setting – and that's exactly what we did."

More than 250 workers created the lavish sets, including an elf village complete with a skating rink. And what about the snow? "It's all paper!" Michael chuckles. "As far as the eye can see, in any outdoor scene – it's just paper. Isn't that amazing?"





STAR INTERVIEW

We catch up with Tim Allen [Scott] and Elizabeth Mitchell [Carol]

Were the sets as magical as they look?

Elizabeth: Yes, the sets were amazing – especially Santa's workshop. It was just like a little dream world.

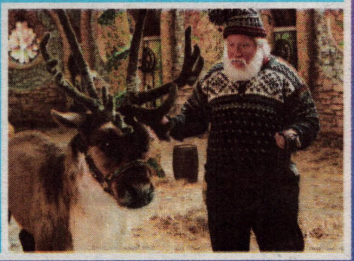
Tim: It was the most beautiful set I've ever worked on. And it was huge! A lot of sets have fake steps and things like that, but everything here was real – real steps, real conveyer belts, real chandeliers.

Elizabeth, what's Tim like to work with?

Elizabeth: He's massively funny, but he's really tender and sweet too. He made me cry a million times! I was supposed to be a really tough character, but he really made me melt.

Tim, was it difficult wearing Santa's fat-suit and make-up?

Tim: It was horrible! I have about four hours where it's okay as long as I sit still. But after that I start getting hot, my skin gets oily and sweaty and then the face make-up starts to peel off. It was a nightmare!



e Rings: The Two
in cinemas on
e final film in the
rd Of The Rings:
he King, is set for
ecember 2003

2 is in cinemas now

THE SANTA CLAUSE 2

THE STORY

Uh-oh, Santa is in trouble. If he doesn't find the perfect Mrs Claus by December 24, Christmas is in jeopardy. Which is bad enough, but that's just the start of Father Christmas's problems. Don't worry if you haven't seen the first Santa Clause film, the sequel will fill you in. As for whether the festive season can be saved? You'll have to watch it and see.

THE CHARACTERS

Scott

In the first Santa Clause movie, Scott was a caring father who turned into Santa Claus and took over the helm at the North Pole. The elves couldn't have a better Father Christmas!

Carol

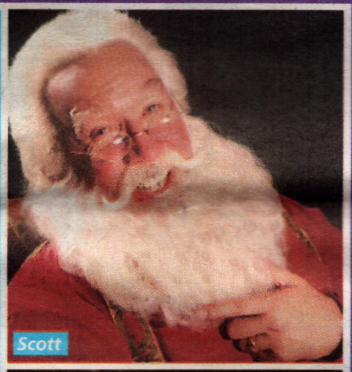
Scott's son, Charlie, attends a high school where Carol is the stern but stunning head teacher. Could Charlie's dad be interested?

Bernard

Bernard is the head elf at the North Pole. He's the guy who's in charge when Santa's not around ... but he doesn't always get it right.

Curtis

This lad may look young, but he's actually one of the North Pole's oldest elves at 900! He's a stickler for the rules.



Scott

Carol

Curtis

Bernard

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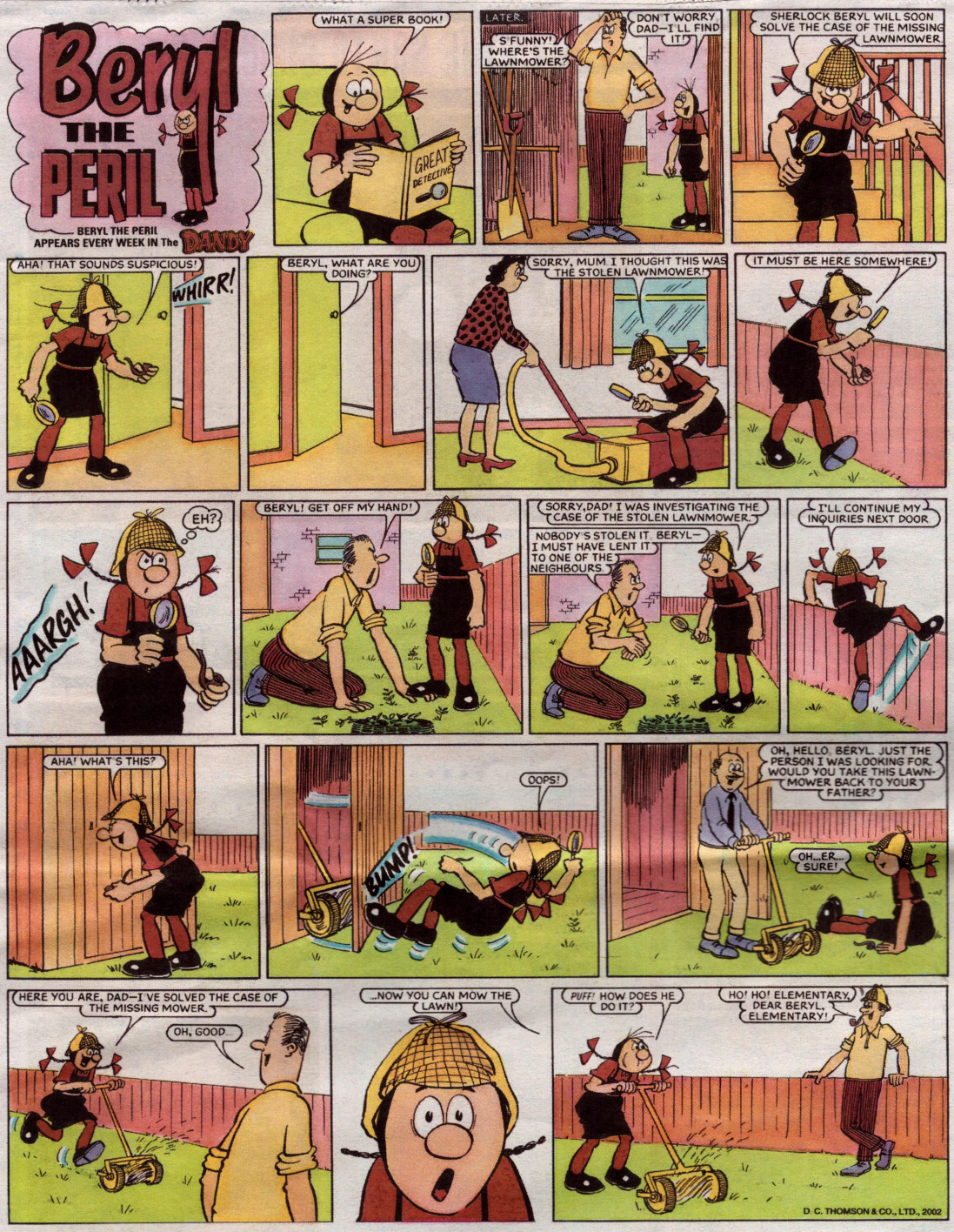
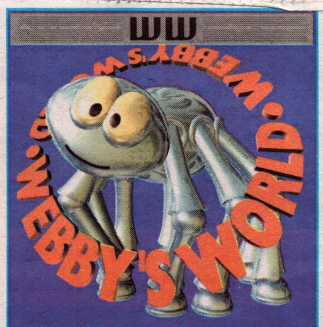




www.hallewood.com

Blimey, this is the official site for Oscar-winning Hollywood actress Halle Berry and you couldn't get any further removed from her all-action Jinx role in Die Another Day. It's all very pink and fluffy as Halle offers fans beauty tips, pictures of her pet dogs Polly and Willy and a rundown of what is top in her wardrobe.

PICTURE: PA

www.dubble.co.uk

Dubble – the fair trade chocolate bar – has its own website where you can learn about how Dubble is made and the principles of fair trade, which helps the impoverished cocoa bean farmers in Ghana. After which, if you think you're genned up, you can see if you qualify as a Dubble agent! Indulge yourself without feeling guilty.

If you are a webhead and have discovered a great site, or have created one of your own, spin me a mail and tell me all about it on webby@sunday-times.co.uk

FRESH!

HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS ★★★★★

Following the book and film closely, this GBA game sees Harry play Quidditch, visit Gringotts Bank, Diagon Alley and, ultimately, the Chamber of Secrets, while collecting spells and wizards and witches cards. Graphically, this title is great but gameplay seems a bit slow and the scrolling narrative will drive pure gamers completely potty. That said, younger fans will find plenty in this handheld version to keep the Hogwarts magic alive.

GAME BOY ADVANCE

BACK TO THE FUTURE TRILOGY [cert PG] ★★★★★

A 1980s action-comedy series involving Steven Spielberg was always going to be a winner. The Back To The Future trilogy [£39.99] still stands the test of time as Marty McFly [Michael J Fox] and Doc Brown visit 1955, 2015 and 1885 in a time-travelling car, altering Marty's family history. The original is a classic, and part two is not far behind. Part three – set in the Wild West – sees time creeping up on the series but, all in all, it's top entertainment packed with gags, adventure and clever in-jokes.

DVD

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS – CREATURES ★★★★★

Middle-earth can be a deadly place. If you don't know your dwarves [noble and courageous] from your orcs [fierce and vile] you won't last very long! That's not to mention all the trolls, elves and wargs wandering about. This terrific new behind-the-scenes book [£6.99] includes dramatic photos of all the races and creatures, with quotes from the actors hidden behind the make-up. A fold-out poster of the beastly Balrog is included too. Monster!

BOOK

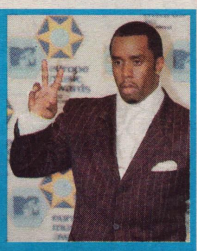
Fresh! tells you what's exciting and new!

FUNDAY

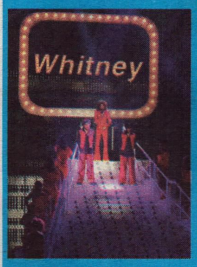
BUZZ!

HOLA MTV!

Buzz! brings you all the best [and worst!] bits from the recent MTV Europe Music Awards 2002 held in Barcelona, Spain



P Diddy [right] was the host of the glittering awards ceremony. The "Diddy style" that he promised for the event included a cool new outfit for each stage appearance and witty banter that kept the crowds at Barcelona's Palau Sant Jordi entertained throughout the show.



"She's been away, but now she's back!" P Diddy announced, as Whitney Houston [left] took the stage for one of the show's live highlights. Whitney wowed the crowd with her trademark soaring vocals as she performed her recent hit, Whatchulookinat.

"Pop used to be a dirty word, but no longer," beamed Kylie [right] as she picked up her second award of the evening. Kylie collected gongs for both Best Dance and Best Pop.

While most of the VIP guests arrived discretely in Barcelona, Nick Carter [left] caused a commotion at the international airport, where he was greeted by hordes of screaming fans.

Aaron and Alex from The Calling [right] were clearly chuffed to be at the star-packed event and were elated when they collected the Best New Act award.

"Let's get this party started" yelled Pink [left], as she launched into a live medley of her hits. The party continued when the singer returned to collect her Best Song award.

Jon Bon Jovi, Ritchie Sambora [right] and the lads rocked the Palau Sant Jordi with a deafening rendition of their new single, Misunderstood.

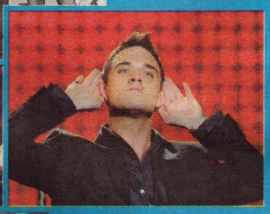
Smoke, cameras, action! Coldplay not only put in a rousing performance, but Chris [left], Guy, Jonny and Will also won the Best UK & Ireland Act award.

Another one of the evening's highlights was Christina Aguilera's [right] raucous rendition of her number one hit Dirrty, complete with a host of writhing dancers.

Holland and Barcelona footballer Patrick Kluivert [right, middle] was joined by team-mate and fellow countryman Michael Reiziger and Sweden's Patrik Andersson to present MTV's Free Your Mind Award to FARE – Football Against Racism in Europe.

Eminem [right] picked up the most awards at the ceremony – collecting Best Male, Best Hip Hop and Best Album. After the show, Eminem hosted his own private party where he performed a duet with Marilyn Manson.

Robbie's singing [below] left the crowd unimpressed, but he expected a big cheer ... and didn't leave the stage until he heard enough applause.



Holly Valance [below, left] was the talk of the backstage area with her zany new look – a poncho dress paired with high heels and legwarmers!

Ultra-cool Alicia Keys [below, right] came to Spain to enjoy the party – and picked up the Best R&B award!

THE WINNERS

- Best Group – Linkin Park
- Best R&B – Alicia Keys
- Best Pop – Kylie Minogue
- Best Male – Eminem
- Best Live Act – Red Hot Chili Peppers
- The Web Award – www.moby.com
- Best Female – Jennifer Lopez
- Best New Act – The Calling
- Best Song – Pink's Get The Party Started
- Best Hard Rock – Linkin Park
- Best Dance – Kylie Minogue
- Best Hip Hop – Eminem
- Free Your Mind – Footballers Against Racism in Europe [FARE]
- Best Rock – Red Hot Chili Peppers
- Best Album – Eminem's The Eminem Show
- Best Video – Royksopp
- Best UK & Ireland Act – Coldplay

HOT!

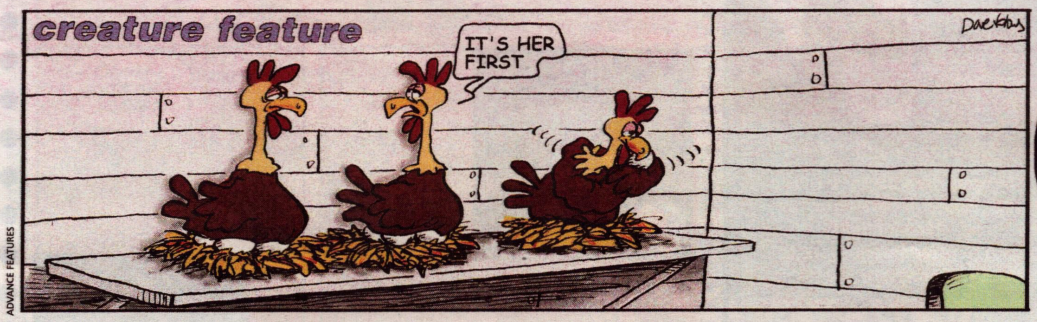
S Single
D DVD

KYLIEFEVER2002 Kylie Minogue ★★★★☆
Come into Kylie's world with this live DVD and CD pack. Recorded during her recent UK tour, KYLIEFEVER2002 includes a DVD of her concert at Manchester's MEN Arena, a revealing behind-the-scenes documentary, plus a CD of some of the show's highlights. The show is spectacular with loads of outfit changes transforming Kylie into anything from a Kyborg [half-Kylie, half robot] to a colourful peacock! It's a great spectacle, full of her hits, and it only drags when Limbo, Light Years and Burning Up seem to merge into one. Love at first sight!

FEEL Robbie Williams ★★★★★
When he's not playing the fool or being annoying, Robbie Williams is still one of the most exciting performers around, and he can deliver classic pop tracks. Feel is Robbie's first track for months, because he has been taking a well-earned break in Los Angeles. And it sounds like the rest has done him good. Feel has a fresh aura about it, and the song combines breathy vocals on the verses with a chorus that lets Robbie soar. Welcome back Mr Williams.

MISUNDERSTOOD Bon Jovi ★★★★☆
With Bon Jovi tracks, you know what to expect, and Misunderstood has all the hallmark Bon Jovi elements. Pounding drums, thrashing guitars and Jon's rasping vocals. The only thing missing here is a chorus that will go down in history. Unfortunately, Misunderstood isn't a classic Bon Jovi track – in fact, the chorus is almost impossible to sing along to! The boys can do better, but even a lukewarm Bon Jovi track blows away most chart pop.

PICTURES AP/CHRISTOPHE SIMON/DENIS DOYLE/LUIS GENE PA/ANTHONY HARVEY/IAN WEST EPA, REUTERS/SERGIO PEREZ



ADVANCE FEATURES

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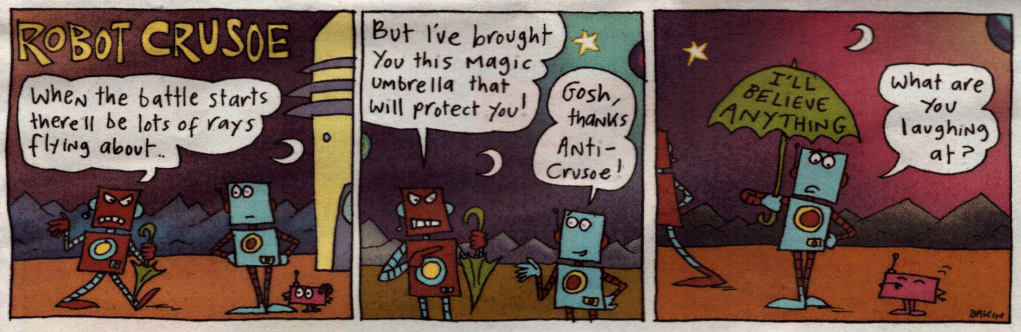


NEXT WEEK

Stuck about what you want for Christmas? Funday gives you some top ideas to tell Santa with our bonanza of cool presents

With The Emperor's New Groove premiering on Disney Channel, we meet the film's directors

It's your final chance to enter our Write4GOSH story competition

f-mail

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX Send your e-mail to: funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

SWEET HARMONY

Fancy your chances as a pop star and think you could mix it with Britney or Robbie? Well, what better way to prove it by grabbing the mic and taking centre stage with a sound Boogie Box karaoke machine? The writer of this week's star f-mail will land themselves a Boogie Box karaoke machine and a selection of Party Animals CDs. These hit-filled discs include Kidz Party, Kidz Dance Party and Kidz Christmas Party – and as they are CD-Roms they also include printable games, quizzes, masks and invitations. Call 01709 710022 – quoting Funday – for more info. The other f-mailers will receive a copy of each of the CDs – cool!

STAR

Dear f-mail,
Due to all the rain in Ireland, I wrote this poem, entitled THE RAIN!

I hate the rain!
It's such a pain.
Lashing at the window all day,
I'm not able to go out and play!
The puddles on the road,
The overflowing of the drain,
I really hate the rain!
The rain bouncing on the ground,
The sun isn't to be found.
The deluge of the rain,
It makes me go INSANE!
Knocking on the door to be let in,
If I was outside,
I'd be soaked to the skin!

Ruaidhrí Moran, 12, Achill Sound

Dear f-mail,
Do any other Funday readers get angry with the way some students take learning as a joke? I do. I really get annoyed when other students answer back at teachers. One girl in my class even had the cheek to listen to a radio during history! Don't these people understand what will happen to them in future life? No good job, a house or anything! I think the Government should have harsher punishments for pupils in schools. A teacher can give people detentions, but the kids just laugh and say: "that's nothing!"

Laura Cobb, 13, Tenterden

Robot is so gullible!

FUNDAY

WIN IT!

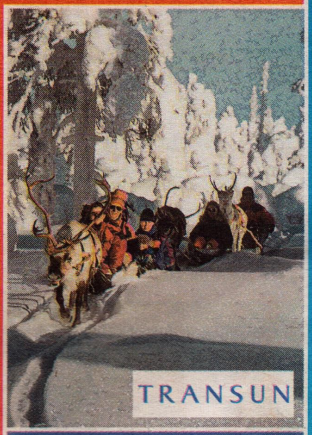
COMPETITION ADDRESS Send answers to all competitions to us at: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY or funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk [only one e-mail per entrant please]
Competition deadline: December 11
Entrants to Funday competitions must be 16 and under

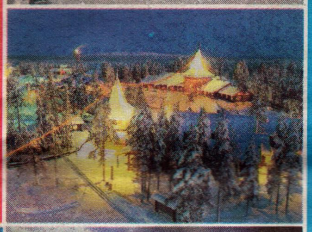
MEET SANTA

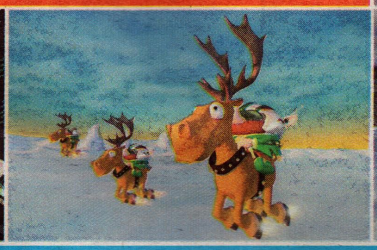
In the new IMAX spectacular Santa vs The Snowman 3D, Santa is in trouble because a cheeky snowman is trying to steal his job!
Created in breathtaking 3D digital animation, this festive treat is bursting with seasonal cheer that will have you and your parents ducking snowballs, hot chocolate squirt guns and speeding goggle-eyed elves!
Giant igloo robot walkers and jet-propelled reindeer also get in on the act to bring a twist to the traditional Christmas story.
Transun and IMAX Cinemas are offering one Funday reader a family day-trip for four, on December 14, to visit Santa's grotto in snow-covered Lapland. The prize includes flights from Gatwick airport, transfers and a visit to Santa's Village.
Plus, 50 runners-up will get a pair of tickets to see the film at their nearest participating IMAX cinema.
There are also FREE Funday screenings of Santa vs The Snowman 3D on December 7 [December 5 for Belfast] at: Science Museum IMAX Cinema, London [020 7942 4359]; bfi London IMAX Cinema [020 7902 1234], Sheridan IMAX Cinema, Bournemouth [01202 2000 000]; Sheridan IMAX Cinema, Belfast [02890 467 000] and Glasgow Science Centre IMAX Cinema [0141 420 5015]. Call the numbers above to pre-book tickets which are on a first come, first served basis [four tickets max]. For film info, click on www.imax.com/santavsthesnowman

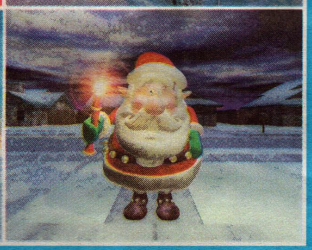
To enter, name the countries in which Lapland lies.

Mark your entry LAPLAND and send it, with your name, age, address and phone number, to the competition address above.

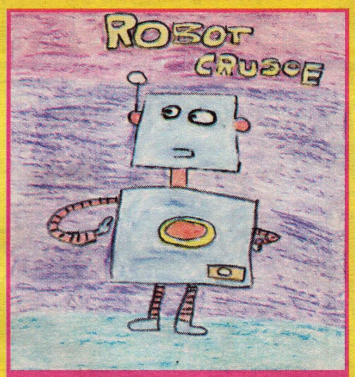




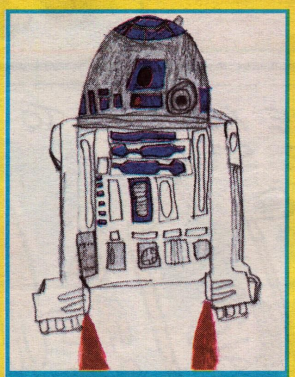




Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions



Ayesha Munshi, 8, Bolton



Jacob Ward, 8, Heaton

COLLECT A RANGER ... PART 6

Each week, we profile one of the new Power Rangers Wild Force. The last Ranger is Merrick, aka Silver Ranger – the spirit of the wolf
Thousands of years ago Merrick harnessed an evil wolf mask to defeat the Master Org. In doing so, Merrick became an Org himself: the Duke Org Zen-Aku. It wasn't until 3,000 years later, following several brutal confrontations with the Rangers, that Merrick was finally freed from the curse and able to return to his mission – to protect Princess Shayla and defeat the Orgs. Merrick and the Princess are in love but cannot be together until the mission is complete.

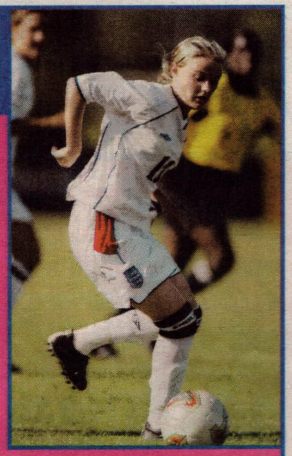
- A wolf pack can be heard howling 10km away
- As well as howling, wolves use tail, ear and head movements to communicate with each other
- Wolves lived wild in Great Britain until 1743

Catch Power Rangers Wild Force on Fox Kids, weekdays at 1pm

Santa's waiting to meet one lucky Funday winner in Lapland!

FUNDAY SPORT

ELLEN MAGGS



Arsenal and England footballer Ellen Maggs is one of the most exciting prospects in the women's game. The 19-year-old hotshot tells Funday Sport about her career so far

At what age did you start playing for Arsenal?
I started when I was nine – it's the only club I've ever played for. I've supported Arsenal all my life, I live near the ground and my dad would kill me if I played for anyone else! Arsenal have been the best club in women's football for a long time and this season is the first time I've started in the team so it would be nice to win things.

What's your favourite goal that you have scored?
The recent one during the Community Shield against Fulham. It was with my left foot. It was the first game I started for Arsenal as well. This season, I've scored quite a few with my left and I don't think I've scored with my right. I think I must have changed feet!

What was it like playing in the under-19 World Cup finals in Canada?
It was amazing to be playing for England against the best teams from our age group. One of our opening games was against the Americans, who beat us 5-1. The most impressive thing about them was their fitness and we were watching the ball a lot of the time. They train together a lot more than we do but we are not that far behind.

You recently earned your first call-up to the England squad. Was that a proud moment?
I wasn't expecting it at all and to be fair there were a lot of injuries to the squad. The FA phoned up and the person said: "I'm pleased to inform you that you are selected for the England squad to play France." I found out on the Monday and the team were playing on the Sunday. When I got to training on Monday everyone knew and said well done.

What do you do outside of football?
Nothing! I do a bit of coaching on Saturday mornings. I was at college but now I'm trying to find a job. At Arsenal, I train five days a week and play on Sundays. Finding a job that fits around that is very hard.

What are your aims in football?
I'd like to win the league with Arsenal. Fulham are the only professional club at the moment and if we get one over them that would be a big step. I'd also like to play in the World Cup for England. We missed out on this one [the 2003 finals in China], losing to France, but hopefully we'll be in the next one.

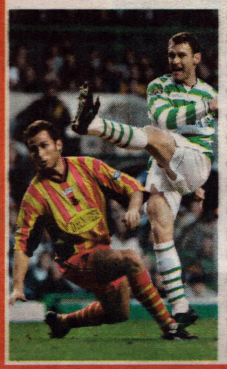
SPORT NEWS

Funday picks out the best of this week's sporting action

Today Premiership
Liverpool v Manchester Utd

What a week for the Premiership, with today's game at Anfield followed by Arsenal's trip to Old Trafford on Saturday. United have already been written off this season, but with Sir Alex geeing up his players, don't be surprised if his side get two wins and end up back in the title chase. Live on Sky Sports 1, kick-off at 12.15pm.

Saturday SPL Rangers v Celtic



There's a huge game in Scotland on Saturday, too, as the two Glasgow giants meet at Ibrox for the second Old Firm clash of the season. Expect fiery tackles and, if Chris Sutton's recent performance against Blackburn Rovers in the Uefa Cup is anything to go by, a fair bit of skill. Watch the game live on BBC1, from 12.10pm.

REV IT UP

Start your engines, gamers! Drome Racers, from Electronic Arts and Lego Interactive, is here and rising star Max Axel, lead driver of the Nitro team, needs steering towards the championship title.

The Drome is a gigantic purpose-built race world in which racing is the only way of life. Funday has teamed up with Electronic Arts to offer three readers the chance to take control of Max's racing destiny.

Three lucky winners will bag a PlayStation 2 console and a copy of Drome Racers, plus a selection of Lego Drome Racer products.

To enter, tell us in which country you'd find Nascar racing.

Mark your entry RACERS and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address on page 11.

PICTURES: PA/DAVID DAVIES/DAVID CHESKIN

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